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ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

"I was born," says Alexandre Dumas, "at Villers-Cotterets, a little town in the department of the Aisne, on the Paris road, about two hundred paces from the Rue de la Noue, where Demoustiers died, two leagues from La Ferté-Milon, where Racine was born, and seven leagues from Château-Thierry, where La Fontaine first saw the light. I was born on July 24, 1802, at half-past five in the morning, in the Rue de Lormet, in a house which now belongs to my friend Cartier, who would gladly sell it to me any day, so that I may be able to die in the very room where I was born." As a matter of fact, he never did buy the house, but died, December 5, 1870, in a little town near Dieppe, whither he had been carried from Paris by his devoted son, on the eve of the German investment of the Capital, in order that his last days might be spared the privations of the siege. Something more than a year later, when his country was again at peace, his remains received final interment in his native town, in the presence of a famous following of authors, artists, and actors.

The bit of autobiography above quoted is characteristic at once of the geniality and the egotism of the man who wrote it. It quite takes for granted the reader's interest in every slightest personal particular that the writer may see fit to impart; it takes also for granted the reader's acceptance of the fact that neither Racine nor La Fontaine could possibly shed any greater lustre upon the region of their common birth than was shed by the author of "Monte Cristo" and "Les Trois Mousquetaires." Of his own greatness, indeed, Alexandre Dumas retained an unshaken conviction throughout his long career. At the height of that career, he could assert with perfect self-assurance that for a quarter of a century past three men, Hugo, Lamartine, and himself, had remained at the head of contemporary French literature; our only marvel is that he should not have set his own name first in that trinity of literary fame. We are not of those to whom such assertions are always and necessarily amusing. They may express the proud self-consciousness of genius, or they may merely indicate a remarkable capacity for self-deception. When Dante and Shakespeare state what we know to be the simple truth concerning their own work, we applaud rather than rebuke, holding such frank utterance in higher esteem than any exhibition of mock modesty. But in the case of Dumas the effect of such self assertion is, on the whole, an entertaining illustration of the delusion of the egotist. That he was a great writer in the sense in which Hugo was a great writer is, of course, a preposterous notion; and that he should honestly have ranked himself with his most illustrious contemporary shows only the fact that

his critical faculty, weak in any case, was absolutely incapable of taking the measure of his own work.

Although a writer of only the second rank, Dumas looms up astonishingly in the French literature of the last century, and he still holds his own surprisingly well. In some respects his position is better to-day than it was at any time during his life. His enemies did their worst to break down his reputation while he was still alive; after his death, there was nothing more to be urged against him than had already been urged, and his fame did not suffer the reaction that commonly follows upon the death of a great writer. Dumas was never set upon such a pinnacle as Hugo in the esteem of his admiring fellow-countrymen, and hence was never in so perilous a position. He was immensely popular, but he was not revered as a prophet and a sage. He has preserved his popularity at home for a full generation after his death, while abroad he is both better known and better appreciated than he was at any time while alive.

Long before Dumas had become popular with English readers, at a time when they thought of him, so far as they thought at all, as of a writer whose stock in trade was a shallow sensationalism and a picturesque perversion of historical happenings, he was known and loved by no less a man than Thackeray, who found no difficulty in rising above English prejudice and contracting a very genuine sympathy for the most gasconading of Frenchmen. But as far as the English-speaking world is concerned, the vogue, if not the fame, of Dumas seems to have been mainly posthumous. The last generation was inclined to regard with dark suspicion the works of all French novelists, and the romances of Alexandre Dumas were held, mostly by persons who had never read them, to be typically "French" in their wicked levity, and consequently to be shunned by all righteous minded readers. When translated into English, the romances were published in such a way as to repel persons of taste, and attract only those classes of readers to whom literature proper makes no appeal whatever. Well do we remember the big and ugly volumes, badly printed and bound in depressing black, in which form alone the American readers of twenty or thirty years ago might make the acquaintance of "d'Artagnan" and "Monte Cristo." Things are very different now, when tasteful editions abound, when the old-fashioned prejudices have disappeared, and when we have all of us become more or less denizens of the joyous realm of romantic invention which is still ruled by the spirit of Alexandre Dumas.

It was along in the eighties, we should say, that English and American readers of the more discriminating sort came to be attracted in considerable numbers to the romances of Dumas. Before that time, his following had been large but uncritical,—it had been a following made up for the most part of seekers for the sensational in literature, of readers who were satisfied with highly-spiced invention, and who recked little of constructive art. But Dumas really deserved a better fate than the applause of this class of readers, and he received his deserts in due course of time. It was about twenty years ago that two English critics of undeniable authority gave assurance to timid souls that their enjoyment of the French romancer was quite legitimate, and that the adventures of the three musketeers really belonged to literature. It is, we think, chiefly to Mr. Andrew Lang and Robert Louis Stevenson that the literary rehabilitation of Dumas with the English-speaking public is to be credited, for these men boldly proclaimed what many readers of taste had felt without quite daring to assert. They had coupled in thought the names of Dumas and Scott, but Mr. Lang ventured to make the conjunction on the printed page. Addressing the spirit of the Frenchman, he said:

"Than yours there has been no greater nor more kindly and beneficent force in modern letters. To Scott, indeed, you owed the first impulse of your genius; but, once set in motion, what miracles could it not accomplish? Our dear Porthos was overcome, at last, by a superhuman burden; but your imaginative strength never found a task too great for it. It is good, in a day of small and laborious ingenuities, to breathe the free air of your books, and dwell in the company of Dumas's men—so gallant, so frank, so indomitable, such swordsmen, and such trenchmen."

This frank and generous praise is echoed by Stevenson, who, closing his "Vicomte de Bragelonne" after the fifth perusal, expresses his enthusiastic admiration in a series of queries which are in fact challenges to all disputants.

"What other novel has such epic variety and nobility of incident? Often, if you will, impossible; often of the order of an Arabian story; and yet all based on human nature. For if you come to that, what novel has more human nature? Not studied with the microscope, but seen largely in plain daylight, with the natural eye? What novel has more good sense, and gaiety, and wit, and unflagging, admirable literary skill . . . And, once more, to make an end of commendations, what novel is inspired with a more unstrained or a more wholesome morality?"

These words take us far indeed from the stand-

point of middle-class propriety and narrow puritanical outlook. They mark the larger and saner critical light in which our own generation has come to view the famous literature of the past.

In the presence of such tributes as these, the unlovely aspects of the character of Dumas, and the dubious aspects of his literary methods, sink into relative insignificance. Granted that he was a swaggerer and vainglorious, that petty jealousies and hypocrisies marked many stages of his career, that in his financial relations he held his personal honor too lightly; granted also that his literary *supercheries* were of unexampled audacity, that he pillaged ideas and situations from all sorts of sources, that he lent his name to books that others had written, — granted all these things, with many others of like tenor, the fact remains that he possessed an astonishingly original and prolific genius, that besides much slipshod writing that has long since been forgotten he produced a series of masterpieces that the world will not willingly let die, and that his higher ideals were on the whole ideals of manliness and clean living and devotion to admirable artistic aims.

COMMUNICATION.

"AMERICAN ENGLISH" AGAIN.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

"Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him," says the Scripture; and then, with a fine recognition of the perplexities of the case, immediately adds: "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit." An unselfish regard for the good of the unwise person seems to dictate the latter course.

An anonymous contributor to the June "Macmillan's Magazine," taking for his subject "Our Unhappy Language," discourses on what he calls "the American language," in a manner that is marked by less wisdom than we are wont to look for in the pages of that excellent periodical. We are told that ours is a distinct language, not bearing the relation even of a dialect to the parent tongue, and that its variations from English can be discovered almost as readily as the differences between Italian and Spanish. We are rebuked for angrily denying this. "I guess," one of us is said to have retorted, "that what you *call* Amurracan is the only form of English which *is* English anyway." This protest is regarded by our Unhappy Linguist (if we may so style him, for convenience) as "too involved to be very intelligible." To be sure, it is not a fair sample of our mode of expressing ourselves, any more than the speech of the cockney is a good illustration of the Englishman's; but the alleged involution is not apparent to a plain man. Five out of any ten English-speaking Germans, says the Unhappy Linguist, will apologetically explain, in the interest of truth, that they learned the language from Americans, and therefore can not speak it very well. The present writer takes pleasure in recalling, from his Berlin university days, instances of Germans who, seeking to perfect their English, favored him with their society because, as they explained, the American pronunciation seemed to them more articulate than the English. But this testimony is far from conclusive, and is adduced only for what it is worth. In the *Polyglott Kuntze* series there is said to be a manual on *Die Amerikanische Sprache*, side by side with one on *Die Englische Sprache*. That certainly is damaging testimony, and the defendant, until he has examined the volume in question, is puzzled for an answer. Again, we are accused of having made the word *commence* (in preference to *begin*) so peculiarly our own that the Unhappy Linguist now almost shrinks from defiling his mouth with it. This is indeed alarming, if true.

From the pages of two American novels — names not given — our assailant takes the text for most of his discourse. We think it safe to infer that the novels are not classics; but let us see what can be said in their defense. "His eyes were wonted to the darkness," is cited, with condemnation of *wonted* as an undesirable neologism. Yet, two hundred years ago, Sir Roger L'Estrange wrote, "She was wonted to the place, and would not remove." "E'en in our ashes live their wonted fires," illustrates a slightly different use of the word, which is probably familiar even to the Unhappy Linguist. "The merciless frame vised him fast." On this our friend has something interesting to say. "The verb *to vise* is a revelation to us, and would seem to be derived from the noun *vice* by false analogy (blessed words!) with the verb *advise*. However, the only possible meaning we could read into it would be expressive of what consuls do to passports." Charity compels us to interpret this, not as ignorance of a familiar carpenter's tool, but as an attempt to be facetious. We bear in mind, too, that the more common English spelling of this tool is *vice*. But the making of a verb out of a noun, to serve at a pinch, is a practice not confined to American writers. Amazement and amusement are excited when the hero of one of the novels referred to is said to feed his horse apples, and the critic wonders if the day will come when the Lord Mayor will feed his guests turtles. We hope not. Meanwhile we shall continue to feed our swine husks, and also to feed them *with* husks, but we prefer to let our guests help themselves to such viands as their appetite demands. "So he," for "so that he," is cited as something new and strange. Without considering the matter, we should have said the shorter form was not uncommon, even with English writers. Opening at random Mr. G. W. E. Russell's "Onlooker's Notebook," we read (page 149), "America was strong and Spain was weak, so we backed America for all we were worth." Other usages, more or less open to censure, are quoted; but few of them, perhaps none, are distinctively American, and not one is to be found in our best writers.

A list of "American words" is given by our Unhappy Linguist, followed by a condemnatory exclamation point. The words are, *defense*, *pretense*, *rumor*, *dishonor*, *labor*, *counselor*, *traveler*, *imperiled*, *groveled*, *marveled*, *untrammeled*, and *maneuver*. Six of these would have served to illustrate all the principles involved. Lack of space forbids a full discussion, and other hands have treated these matters at length. Yet we can never cease to wonder why the English cling so jealously to *u* in

honour, but drop it in *horror*, *pallor*, *terror*, *actor*, *author*, and a hundred other words having exactly the same Latin-French pedigree. Retaining the French *u* in certain cases, why does the Englishman insist on discarding the French *s* in *defense* and *offense*, which are derived originally from Latin forms in *-ensa*? In Middle English we find forms in *-ens* and *-ense;* the form in *-ence* is a comparatively late departure from the good old spelling. Likewise the ending *-or* represents, as a rule, an earlier English *-our;* but whereas our cousins have reverted to the Latin form in some cases, and not in others, we in America, for the sake of both brevity and uniformity, have dropped the *u* almost without exception. The English lexicographer Ogilvie, by the way, gives *pretense* as the better spelling of the second word on the list. So much for that "American word."

"We do not in the least care," concludes the Unhappy Linguist, "how the Americans spell, but in these days of simultaneous editions on either side of the Atlantic we see danger to our own spelling, about which we do care." In other words, "we don't care how fast you Americans go to perdition, but pray don't take us with you." We do not yet despair of the English language. It has weathered a dozen centuries and more, and its decay does not seem imminent. But not until it is a dead language, or the English fence themselves in with a Chinese wall, will it anywhere be preserved in a state of rigid unchangeableness. P. F. B.

Malden, Mass., July 8, 1902.

The New Books.

Comments of a Contemporary.*

Applying Mr. John Morley's test of literature as distinguished from mere printed matter, and demanding that it shall contain "moral truth and human passion . . . touched with a certain largeness, sanity, and attraction of form," one would not be far wrong in pronouncing "An Onlooker's Notebook" to be literature. It is written with a journalistic crispness of style that carries the reader along from page to page without sense of fatigue, and the writer's breadth of view and range of experience distinguish him from the ordinary reporter of current events. These chapters on men and manners of the present and the more immediate past are reprinted from "The Manchester Guardian," where they appeared during the year 1901. Their anonymous author is Mr. George W. E. Russell, whose earlier volume of reminiscences and whose life of Gladstone in the "Queen's Prime Ministers" series have been well received.

The first half of the book treats largely of matters political, the latter of social questions. Democracy the author regards as a disappointment, so far at least as the high hopes entertained for it thirty years ago are concerned. From the glorious height of a divine ideal it has sunk to the humble level of a fairly practicable system. But he admits that it has never received a thorough trial in England, except in local affairs, where indeed the experiment gives hope of future capacity on the part of the people for treating "the higher and deeper proplems of imperial government." Significant in this connection is the author's firm conviction that "a hereditary legislative body is a mistake."

Five short chapters on the monarchy, from 1760 to 1901, give fleeting views of four successive sovereigns and their courts, and bring us down to the present reign, of which Mr. Russell ventures to predict four chief characteristics. First, it will be popular: the King, losing nothing of the tact and grace that marked his bearing as Prince of Wales, will have the support of all his people. Second, it will be a splendid reign, reflecting the sovereign's natural taste for pomp and his freedom from parsimony. Third, it will be marked by impartiality, Edward VII. keeping his politics to himself as strictly as he did before his accession. Fourth, it will be an active reign, as the court will reside in London and will play a conspicuous part in public affairs.

The latter half of the book is made up of brief and entertaining discussions of such topics as society journalism, the pleasures of publicity, the ways of the new woman, filthy lucre, religious observance, hedonism, decorum, superstition, card-playing and gambling, the public schools, the universities, and the church. The decline of chivalry and the growth of a selfish materialism are deplored.

"To-day chivalry seems to me extinct. The one idea is to shout with the largest crowd, to back the winner, to side with the majority. America was strong and Spain was weak, so we backed America for all we were worth. We believed that France was weak, and we tried to pick a quarrel with her over Fashoda. The Armenians were a feeble folk, and we would not move a finger to save them from massacre. Greece is a little country, and we had nothing but clumsy ridicule for her struggle against the Turkish tyranny. We were told that the South African republics had lost the power of fighting — and we are learning our lesson."

Mr. Russell has some shrewd and amusing things to say about the art of living on nothing. Among the devices practised by its devotees are the following:

"Time out of mind ladies have claimed all the honors at whist, and, where their adversaries were shy or careless, they have not seldom derived profit from the

*An Onlooker's Notebook. By the Author of "Collections and Recollections." New York: Harper & Brothers.

claim. The worthy couple whom I described as 'The Staymakers' used to arrange with one of their sons to meet them in hospitable country houses. When the whist-tables were made up, father, mother, and son used to sit down and entice some unwary youth to be the fourth. The points were moderate — shillings and half-crowns — but whichever way the luck went, a greater or less sum was bound to find its way into the coffers of the family. . . . Most people know some fashionable couples who eke out a rather narrow income by poker and bridge. It is calculated by the friends who have the pleasure of losing to them that they make several hundreds a year; but no one ever dreams of suggesting unfair play. Luck is pretty equally distributed; but skill, courage, and facial control are qualities which succeed at cards as elsewhere; and a great advantage of playing in your own house is that the party can be broken up as soon as the hostess feels tired or the host has had enough of it."

The foregoing, we take pleasure in thinking, would have found no place in the notebook of an American onlooker, describing American society life. Some of the humilations to which a person must submit who cultivates the gentle art of living on his wits are vividly pictured by Mr. Russell. He borrows for his purpose Thackeray's "dear young literary friend, Tom Garbage."

"The popular girls pronounce him 'a little horror,' and won't dance with him on any terms. The young men regard him as an outsider; and the old gentlemen make him the butt of their peculiarly unpleasing humor. Lord Cramlington meets Tom Garbage in Piccadilly, and accosts him with a friendly and hospitable air: 'Are you going to dine anywhere to-night, Garbage?' Tom, scenting an invitation, promptly says 'No.' 'By Gad, what an appetite you 'll have to-morrow!' replies Lord Cramlington, and walks away with a cheerful smile. . . . Or, again, poor Tom is the guest of Sir Thomas Portmore, famous for his cellar, and inadvertently puts his hand round his claret-glass. 'I see that claret is n't warm enough for you,' says the host; and then, ringing the bell with great violence, roars to the butler: 'Take that wine away and boil it, and put plenty of sugar and spice in it; and then perhaps it will suit your palate, Mr. Garbage.'"

The thirst for notoriety receives a sharp rebuke from our author, who regrets the departure of old-fashioned modesty and reserve.

"We live in and on publicity. Where our fathers repelled the society journalist from their doors and horsewhipped him if they caught him at his tricks, we encourage him to the top of his bent. Only twenty years ago I have known a man blackballed at a club because he was suspected of having written for a society journal, and a guest who published the names of his fellow-guests at a dinner-party was never again permitted to cross the violated threshold. But now the smartest people take the society journalist to their bosoms. He dines with them in London and stays with them in the country. He is invited to inspect the bedrooms and examine the plate and scrutinize the family jewels. . . . The interviewer is abroad in the land, and to him people of the highest cultivation disclose their private beliefs in religion and politics and literature. They supply lists of 'Hymns that have Helped Me' and 'Prayers that have Pushed Me'; they enumerate their 'Hundred Favorite Books'; they resuscitate the memories of the nursery and the private school. . . . Reticence has fled to Jupiter or Saturn, and, as all speech is unguarded, so all life is public."

Verily, one is ready to say with Ovid in the enforced seclusion of his distant exile, "Bene qui latuit, bene vixit." Heaven deliver us from the insanity of this ever-spreading "social pushfulness," as our author calls it! But after these and many other pictures of all sorts of degeneracy, chiefly among the aristocracy, we are refreshed with a few final chapters on the more hopeful signs for the future; and these indications of higher ideals the writer finds in the very class he has been holding up to reprobation, as well as among the ranks of the people.

"I am well assured that among young Englishmen of all grades and classes there is a vein of manly self-control and self-devotion which may yet prove to be the salvation of England when national judgments begin to overtake national sins. . . . We are officially informed that the supply of clergy is falling off; but though the young men at Oxford and Cambridge who are now seeking holy orders may be fewer than they were twenty years ago, I am convinced that their quality is better. There is nothing epicene or namby-pamby about them. They are fine, manly, active fellows, keen in mind and strong in body; men who have rowed for their colleges or played 'rugger' for the university, and ready to consecrate all their splendid gifts of health and skill and trained endurance to the service of religion and humanity. . . . Such institutions as Toynbee Hall and Mansfield House, though conducted on secular lines, display the same energy of youthful zeal directed to high ends; and I fancy that most of the great provincial towns could tell the same tale as Liverpool with its Newsboys' Home and Food and Betterment Association. . . . A few years ago there was a vulgar fashion, for which Thackeray and Leech were mainly responsible, of holding up clerks and servants to promiscuous and pointless ridicule. A truer conception of honorable service now obtains, and English footmen and grooms have given as good an account of themselves in South Africa as the sons of the houses which they served."

Mr. Russell is a keen observer, and he turns to good literary account what he sees and what he hears. His acquaintance with the Dowager Duchess of Cleveland, whose long life covers the years 1792–1883, has furnished him with numerous early nineteenth-century items of interest. From Bishop Wilberforce also, and from Gladstone, Beaconsfield, Lord Aberdeen, and other noble sources, he draws many anecdotes of high life, — not always new, but never tedious. His rather curious excuse for neglecting the less exalted classes is that his master, Matthew Arnold, has already chosen the common people for his own province. Yet he is not a snob, and if he shows an occasional touch

of Thackeray's snobbish anti-snobbery, it is too slight to offend. To those who relish dexterous word-play the book offers an occasional toothsome morsel, despite, or perhaps partly because of, its rather free use of the most up-to-date slang — in apologetic quotation marks. *Ochlocracy*, a handy antonym to *oligarchy*, masquerades as *othlocracy*, but in a quoted sentence, so that the blame cannot be fixed. Now and then a little-used Latin phrase greets one as a pleasant surprise in its English dress. Finally, and best of all, the brief space accorded to each topic shows the author to have learned well that hardest of lessons for a fluent writer, that a part is better than the whole.

PERCY F. BICKNELL.

TWO GOOD GARDEN BOOKS.*

Two of the best of Mr. Lane's numerous garden books are Canon Ellacombe's "In My Vicarage Garden" and Mrs. Milne-Home's "Stray Leaves from a Border Garden." It is a matter of fact and of interest that the English clergy have been garden-lovers since the days of old when priests and monks found in their gardens sources of physic, pleasure, and profit. Through their missions they secured rare and beautiful plants, and introduced valued fruits and vegetables; and in the sheltered "gardens enclosed" of their monasteries they could preserve and multiply, experiment with and disperse, the new plants.

Of the modern English clergy, the best-known flower-lovers and flower-rearers are Dean Hole, champion of the English Rose; and Canon Ellacombe, author of "In a Gloucestershire Garden" and of that most satisfying, charming, and perfect book, "The Plant-Lore and Garden-Craft of Shakespeare." In this book, "In My Vicarage Garden, and Elsewhere," appears aftermath of the author's Shakespearian research, in the chapters entitled "Plant Names," "York and Lancaster Roses," and "Shakespere and Architecture." Fascinating subjects are "The Scents of Flowers" and "Medical Properties of Flowers," in which the curious "doctrine of signatures" is most ably and interestingly explained. This "doctrine" has been held from the time when the Preacher gave as one of the qualities of the Wise Man, "certain knowledge of the things that are . . . the diversities of plants and the virtues of roots." It was, in brief, "nature's own prescription," — a belief that each plant revealed in its shape or color some resemblance to a disease or to some portion of the body, and therefore was of value in that disease or for strengthening that organ. Thus, a heart-shaped leaf was used in heart disease; a spotted leaf like *pulmonaria* was for diseased lungs; a plant with swellings at the joints of the stem or the leaf-stalks would cure gout. This doctrine was universally believed, and beloved; for it was quoted as a proof of the loving care and thoughtful provision of the Creator. Though the working out of this principle is, of course, wholly wrong, yet the principle itself was based on right; and its influence is still shown in our modern botanical arrangement and classification of plants.

A chapter of special interest is entitled "Railway Gardens." This does not mean the beds and borders of ornamental flowers at railway stations, growing so cheerfully under adverse conditions, and so welcome to the eye of the traveller. The subject is, instead, the expanse or groups of unusual and unexpected flowers which spring up in startling beauty in railway "cuts," in ballast heaps, in refuse "dumps." The raw ugly track of the railway contractor is quickly covered with a garden of Nature's planting, — a rare garden, too; for flowers which have not been seen in a certain vicinity for years will bloom forth in abundance after the blasting out of a line of rock. The ballast heaps below Philadelphia have revealed hundreds of rare plants, many from the Orient, which have been classified and written about as Ballast Plants. Sweeps of old-time garden-flowers reappear and blossom in glorious profusion. Canon Ellacombe names the London Rocket, the wild Valerian, the Canterbury Bell, Viper's Bugloss, the Bee Orchis in "railway gardens." Railway cuttings in America have been a happy hunting-ground both for geologist and botanist. I have for years made notes of the revelations of the railroads. At times but a tantalizing glimpse is given to the dasher-by; but other times sudden and spirited onraids of friendly brakemen, during a pause while the panting engine is swallowing water, have secured wonderful prizes and surprises. To the English list I can add borders a mile long of Bouncing Bet; acres of orange-tawny garden-lilies; beds of coreopsis; rock-cuttings

*IN MY VICARAGE GARDEN, AND ELSEWHERE. By the Rev. Henry N. Ellacombe, M.A. With portrait. New York: John Lane.

STRAY LEAVES FROM A BORDER GARDEN. By Mary Pamela Milne-Home. Illustrated. New York: John Lane.

hung with harebells; a certain old-fashioned garden campanula; moss pink; and a half-double garden-plant of the feverfew family. And I have gone far beyond Canon Ellacombe in my speculations, and found elements of the romantic and beautiful with which to confound the spirit and refute the sneers of that railroad hater, Ruskin. No flower-dreams of deeper sentiment come to me than the thought of the wandering of those flower-seeds, — their dormant years of silence and darkness, their travel hither, their sudden release and resurrection through modern progress. But all this may be over-fanciful, or, as Shakespeare says, "'Twere to consider too curiously to consider so."

"Stray Leaves from a Border Garden," Mrs. Milne-Home's book, reveals not only a romantic home and picturesque garden on that historic spot, Flodden Field, but also the charming personality of the author. The book is an intimate record, — a human document, in the best sense of that much-twisted term. We can never disassociate author and book; and as nothing about this author's life has been printed in the American press, we may be permitted a bit of information. The daughter of an English soldier, Major Ellis, the great-grandchild of the Irish patriot Lord Edward Fitzgerald, she is now the widow of Colonel Milne-Home of the Royal Blues, that gallant old soldier who died six months ago at his Border home. He won laurels and decorations in Egypt and India in his youth; and in later life this flower-loving young wife in Jamaica. This is not the first book written by Mary Pamela Milne-Home. Almost in her girlhood she wrote "Mamma's Black Nurse Stories" and "West Indian Folk-Lore," — tales of the wonderful *An-ansi* legends of Jamaica, familiar to us in the American book," "Annancy Stories," by Mary Pamela Coleman Smith. Tinges of color from Jamaica gardens show in this tale of the Border, and of Continental gardens as well, especially of Provence, another home of the author. One of the pleasing characteristics of the book is the constant recounting of the folk-lore of England, Scotland, Russia, Jamaica, France; the folk-lore of personal observation, bearing the thrill and fire of first telling, not the decorous recording through a succession of quotations and transcriptions. There is ample proof, too, of extended reading among ancient herbals and flower-books.

A charming series of pictures entitled "My Friends in Their Gardens" might well be carried out in like by other garden-writers. There are portrayed — five or six pages being given to each — a Squire's garden, a Provence garden, the Rector's garden, Black Jacob's garden in Jamaica, Padre Avelino's garden in Trinidad, a Swiss burial-place, etc. The Border Garden, where Mother and Boy sowed and weeded, and rejoiced over what Bacon called "garden-delights," and mourned over their garden-tragedies, must be read in every page, and every page will be enjoyed.

In the year 1881 Mr. Jackson put the number of botanical works then existing at over eight thousand. In the following score of years, enormous numbers of such books have been published; the year and a half of this century numbers hundreds, perhaps thousands, since there now exists a so-called craze for garden and flower books. There have been books of vast cost, — like Sibthorpe's "Flora Græca," in the production of which over fifty thousand dollars was spent, — and books on specialized topics; but for general reading, for novel, pleasant, and useful information, for intelligent and graceful English composition, the two books under our consideration hold firmly their own dignified and creditable position in the face of the regiment of their fellows.

ALICE MORSE EARLE.

BRYCE'S ESSAYS ON HISTORY AND JURISPRUDENCE.*

We think there are few books which in a quiet way will do the serious student more good, or deserve better of its readers, than Mr. Bryce's recent volume of "Studies in History and Jurisprudence." These essays form a book on whose nine hundred and odd pages the reader will find very little chaff of words, and much excellent and substantial information, presented in a popular manner and with the charm of literary style. They bear the stamp of the mind not only of an academic teacher of many years' experience, but also of a statesman active in the service of his country, and perhaps still more of a student and exponent of historical and constitutional questions. Mr. Bryce's treatment of such questions has always been eminently characterized by fairness, sound sense, and the practical grasp of a man prominent in active life and accustomed to living issues as well as to theories

*STUDIES IN HISTORY AND JURISPRUDENCE. By James Bryce, D.C.L. New York: Oxford University Press.

and speculations. When a writer of such recognized standing, wide experience and scholarship discusses matters of historical and practical importance, his remarks naturally awaken keen interest; and the friendly hearing which any word of Mr. Bryce can command in America will add considerably to the attention given this new work of his.

Attention is aroused by the opening essays, wherein the author compares the two greatest nations of European history, ancient and modern, — the Romans and the English. The study of Rome becomes nowadays more and more a necessary introduction to historical study in general, even among the English; and no less than half the number of essays contained in Mr. Bryce's book are more or less directly concerned with the universal side of Rome's rule. Of course, the similarity of Roman and English political ideas instantly presents itself, both countries establishing their law among many nations; and the similarity is to be noted, also, in their imperialistic tendencies and their holding distant provinces by means of colonization. As Mr. Bryce expresses it in his preface, "The longer one lives the more is one impressed by the close connection between the old Græco-Italian world and our own. We are still very near the ancients." The empire of India is the largest and so far the most successful experiment in England's imperial policy. The two first essays set forth the chief points of resemblance between Rome and Great Britain. The subject is not treated in any great detail, but what is said gives a sufficiently vivid impression of the difficulties encountered by each nation in governing a foreign province. Of these difficulties, those felt by the English in properly ruling India appear by all odds the more serious. Other essays related to these are the fourteenth and fifteenth, which treat of methods of law-making and the history of the development of jurisprudence in Rome and in England; and these are among the most suggestive in the book. The last essay discussing kindred legal points is the one "On Marriage and Divorce in Roman and English law," which will not only excite interest in itself but to many will appear a timely addition to the present active controversy regarding the revision of divorce laws. The author's rather conservative view, which seems to consider frequency of divorce largely a convenient stepping-stone to polygamy, will doubtless be approved by many.

It is in modern constitutional law and history that Mr. Bryce is considered most proficient, and the reader follows with pleasure his treatment of such questions as "Flexible and Rigid Constitutions," "The Action of Centripetal and Centrifugal Forces on Political Constitutions," "The Commonwealth of Australia," and, last but not least, as a precious anomaly, the essay on the old constitution of the only permanent republic of pure Germanic origin, primitive Iceland. Although one of the briefer essays, this is nevertheless one of the most interesting. The author is evidently delighted with this quaint old commonwealth, whose peculiarities he explains with his customary lucidity. Mr. Bryce probably never visited the historic isle, nor studied its ancient laws; but he has drawn his information from the next best source, the writings of the great jurist and Germanist Konrad Maurer, whose monographs and historical works hold so high authority in Germanistic literature. Perhaps Mr. Bryce's account will awaken some interest, even among American students, in the Germanic North, where lie the true sources of an understanding of Germanic life.

These essays on constitutions, Mr. Bryce supplements by others of a philosophical character, in which he discusses "Obedience," "The Nature of Sovereignty," "The Law of Nature," "The Relations of Law and Religion," essays which under any circumstances will command admiration for the author's clear reasoning, observing mind, and judicious treatment. They are well adapted to the understanding of any thoughtful person, and will no doubt be of influence both in political and professional life.

One of the chief characteristics of the book is its prevalent tone of caution. Perhaps it is due to this extremely temperate spirit that even Mr. Bryce sometimes seems vague, and afraid of broaching vital questions, — especially when treating of the far-reaching imperial policy of England, with which he perhaps does not altogether sympathize. Thus, one of the few things which the reader accepts with incredulity, even from Mr. Bryce, is the statement (pp. 119–120) that English law may become the law of all India and the Christian religion supersede the native beliefs. This, it appears to us, is to carry the comparison between Rome and England too far. Of course, such an event depends in the end upon the continuance of English rule. "Experience," says Mr. Bryce, "goes to show that no form of heathenism . . . does ultimately withstand the solvent power of

European science and thought." But we doubt exceedingly that an Occidental belief, even when fortified by science, — which, it may be remarked, generally helps to neutralize its force, — will ever transplant an Oriental belief, conceived and upheld as it is by the far subtler power of distinguishing between the apparent and the real which is inherent in the Oriental mind. When one reads that, in one part of India, out of a population numbering more than forty-four millions a little more than a hundred thousand are Christians, who are again divided up into denominations, one does not know whether to laugh or to weep over the phantom of future Christianization of the East in general and India in particular. Besides, if it is true, as many earnest voices assert — voices from among the English residents themselves — that English rule has served only to impoverish India (Mr. Bryce himself points to excessive taxation as one of the greatest dangers of English rule), how can the expensive English government be maintained on an increasing public debt and a decreasing power of the population to yield adequate revenue? Mr. Bryce points to the large area not yet under cultivation; but reformers point to the increasing frequency of famine and plagues, the financial results of which may yet prove too much for even the British administration and its unlimited money credit. And as for the ultimate sway of English law, as long as the Hindoos themselves are not trained to administer it, or appointed as justices of it, English law remains at best an adaptation. The Oriental mind will by degrees outlive it, and rise to something more congenial with its own tendencies. Mr. Bryce himself pictures what would be the result if England withdrew her forces; but it is nevertheless true that no nation as gifted as the Hindoo can forever remain in bondage to a foreign and alien race so utterly unsympathetic to the mass of the people as the English has proved itself to be. The awakening of the East must come; and when the united nations of Europe shall be able to cope with England at sea, a European war will ensue which will seal the fate of English dominion in India. Unhappily, these conjectures are not, as Mr. Bryce suggests, merely speculative.

The book concludes with two addresses, one introductory, the other valedictory; the opening and closing of an activity as academic teacher the best fruit of which these essays contain. The author himself expresses the fear that some of these may not altogether be able to meet the demands of modern criticism; but, to quote his own words, "Life is short . . . and it seems better to let what I have written, under the constant pressure of other duties, go forth now." It seems but fitting to express the expectation that in view of the author's well-earned popularity with the American public, this last book of his should be at least as widely read as his others have been.

A. M. Wergeland.

Books on the Louisiana Purchase.*

Dr. Hosmer has rightly judged the time appropriate for the publication of a popular account of the purchase of Louisiana. The scope of his book would have been better indicated had he retained the title by which it was originally announced and called it "The Story" rather than "The History" of the Louisiana Purchase. The work is distinctly intended for the general reader, and even for readers of the younger class. With this object in view, the author has enlarged upon the dramatic and picturesque features of the event, and has either touched very lightly or omitted altogether the more abstruse and difficult ones. His main purpose has been to show that the transfer was almost wholly the work of Napoleon, and thus to correct the common opinion that it resulted from the superior insight and wisdom of Jefferson. Jefferson's merit consisted almost solely in accepting the good fortune that befell him. Dr. Hosmer tells the whole story of Napoleon's quarrel with his brothers Joseph and Lucien over the sale, which he is the first to render accessible in English in its entirety. A somewhat fuller account of the San Domingo revolt would have been interesting and at the same time would have brought out more clearly the pressure under which Napoleon acted. But measured by its purpose the story is well told and the book entirely successful. For the student, it does not and is not intended to supersede the chapters in Mr. Adams's history.

Upon one point Dr. Hosmer has tripped. Marbois, in his account of the sale of Louisiana, says that Napoleon, wishing "to have the opinion of two ministers, who were familiar

* The History of the Louisiana Purchase. By James K. Hosmer. Illustrated. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

The Boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase. By Louis Houck. St. Louis: Phillip Roeder's Bookstore.

with those countries," summoned them to a conference on Easter Sunday of 1808. To one of the ministers "the administration of the colonies was familiar"; the other "had served in the auxiliary army (l'armée auxiliare) sent by France to the United States during their revolution." The first minister was Marbois himself, who was minister of finance, and had served in the United States in a diplomatic capacity and in San Domingo as Intendant of the colony. It was probably well understood, at the time Marbois wrote, who the second minister was; but later writers have rather curiously omitted his identification. Dr. Hosmer assumes that it was Decrès, minister of marine. This is scarcely possible. Decrès served in the fleet, and not in the army, as described by Marbois; and he was so young at the time, his service was so short and his position so subordinate, that he could scarcely have become "familiar" with America. The minister referred to was undoubtedly Berthier, minister of war. Berthier served three years in the "auxiliary army" in America, was aide-de-camp to Rochambeau, attained the rank of colonel, and, after peace was negotiated, returned to France by way of San Domingo. He thus had every opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of conditions both in the United States and in the colony. There were, moreover, several reasons why Berthier was most likely to be consulted. His relations with Napoleon were most confidential, he was the negotiator of the preliminary treaty of St. Ildefonso for the retrocession of Louisiana, and, in view of the fact that the sale of the province turned upon war with England, he was, next after Napoleon himself, most directly interested in the subject. Dr. Hosmer refers to Clay as the author of the Missouri Compromise. The statement is probably accidental, but it does seem as if the impression that Clay arranged what we think of as *the* Missouri Compromise would never be effaced.

Another Louisiana book is "an historical study," by Mr. Louis Houck, entitled "The Boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase." The author says that "The fact that much erroneous information in regard to the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase has, during the last few years, been industriously circulated by the daily press and otherwise, must be the excuse for the publication of this study." Inasmuch as Mr. Houck is himself wrong upon all the essential points, his little book will scarcely serve its intended purpose of setting the public right. His work shows a very considerable amount of investigation, but very little historical judgment. He seems to have adopted the motto, "My country, right or wrong," and, upon that principle, to have knocked down to the credit of the Louisiana Purchase everything that has at any time been claimed for it. Although the boundaries of Louisiana were never definitely described, its general extent is perfectly clear and perfectly certain. It included the Isle of Orleans east of the Mississippi, and the whole basin of that river and its tributaries west of it. Mr. Houck claims that it included in addition Florida west of the Perdido river, Texas, and Oregon.

The case of Florida is too clear for controversy. Having failed in their efforts to acquire West Florida, the United States set up the claim, under an apparent ambiguity in the treaty, that the part west of the Perdido was included in Louisiana. Historical facts, too involved and complicated for present statement, are absolutely conclusive against this contention. Mr. Houck considers that the decision of the Supreme Court proved the American construction; but, although Marshall did argue that the language of the treaty would admit of either construction, and that strong arguments might he adduced in support of the American one, he avoided any inquiry into the merits of the question, and based his judgment solely upon the ground that the court was bound to follow in such questions the opinion of the political departments of the government. The claim to Texas was threshed out in the negotiation of the Florida treaty, was revived in 1844 for political purposes, and since then has been brought forward from time to time by writers in search of a sensation. It rests wholly upon La Salle's short-lived and ill-fated colony. The colony itself was a mistake, and its whole effort was devoted to its abandonment. Whatever claims might have resulted were forfeited by its immediate destruction. The Spanish occupation of Texas was continuous from its earliest settlement, and, even during the Spanish occupation of Louisiana, Texas was maintained as a separate colony. It is true that Napoleon intended to extend Louisiana to the Rio Grande; but what could be more absurd than to base a claim of right upon an edict of Napoleon's? Louisiana included as much of northeastern Texas as falls within the basin of the Red river, and that is all. The bulk of Mr. Houck's book is devoted to an argument to prove that

Louisiana included Oregon. The French claim to Louisiana rested wholly upon the occupation of the Mississippi basin; and as there is no single instance of *occupation* beyond that basin, Louisiana could not possibly have included more, and all argument to the contrary falls to the ground. The United States never claimed Oregon as a part of the Louisiana Purchase, but as a result of it. The idea that Louisiana included Oregon originated in an error in a map published in the Census of 1870, which resulted from a misreading of the map in Marbois's "Louisiana," and this error was perpetuated and disseminated for nearly a generation by the map of the United States issued by the General Land Office. The Land Office map has been corrected, but the impression produced by the old map upon many minds still remains.

F. H. Hodder.

Essays on American Themes.*

Charles Francis Adams writes no dull essays. From his "Chapters of Erie," in which, more than thirty years ago, he first made his bow to the reading public, to his just published volume, "Lee at Appomattox, and Other Papers," he has written upon a great variety of important topics, but always with a ripe scholarship, a grace of style, and a thorough understanding of the subject discussed, which endow his volumes with a perennial charm.

The opening paper, which gives title to the volume, is in effect a contrast between the methods of General Lee of the Confederate army and President Kruger in South Africa. The capture of Pretoria by General Roberts, in June, 1900, was the Appomattox of the South African Republic. After each battle, the result of the war was no longer doubtful. But in the Southern States still existed Confederate armies of magnitude, and throughout the Confederacy was the feeling of great bitterness toward the North. Jefferson Davis, after the surrender of Lee's army, issued a proclamation worthy of Kruger, urging that a guerrilla warfare be kept up until the North should drop the contest from sheer exhaustion. But Lee was a man of broader and grander type. He saw that the Confederacy was doomed, and had the wisdom to take a course which should stop the needless effusion of blood and save the Southern States from a devastation like that which marked Sherman's march from Atlanta. His personal popularity caused his views, rather than those of Davis, to prevail. Kruger, seeing clearly the inevitable end, persisted in a course which, as Mr. Adams states, he knew must result "in the probable destruction of one of the combatants, in great loss to the other, and in utter disregard of the best interests of both." Mr. Adams has given in detail General Lee's actions and his discussions with his officers for the twenty-four hours before his final surrender, and gives him great and deserved credit for a course which was perhaps the greatest factor in bringing the two warring factions of the nation to the present conditions of harmony.

The second and most important paper in Mr. Adams's volume is entitled "The Treaty of Washington," and refers to the treaty concluded between the United States and England providing for the arbitration of the claim of the United States for damages suffered by our merchant marine from Confederate cruisers fitted out in English ports, which treaty also made a new standard in reference to the rights of private property in cases of war. Mr. Adams, through access to papers of his father, — who was our ambassador in London during the Civil War, and afterward a member of the Court of Arbitration, — and also to the papers of Hamilton Fish, has been enabled to give an inside account, and a most interesting one, of the origin and adjustment of such claims, much of which is wholly new to the general public.

The English Cabinet took the position that while it would be an infraction of the laws of neutrality for ships of war to be built and equipped in English shipyards, and sold to the Confederacy, yet it was no infraction of the law for unequipped war-ships to be built and so sold, and for the armament of such ships to be built and so sold, in case the armament was not put aboard the ship in an English port. So the "Alabama" was built as a war vessel, and sailed from Liverpool to the Azores. At the date of her sailing her armament and munitions of war were shipped on another vessel from London to the same port, and were there transferred to the ship. This method of getting around the spirit of the law was sanctioned by the English Cabinet, and upheld by the Courts. Three vessels, the "Florida," "Alabama," and "Shenandoah," were thus fitted out, and preyed destructively upon our commerce. The English position was based upon a sympathy on the part of the

* Lee at Appomattox, and Other Papers. By Charles Francis Adams. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

governing classes for the South, a belief by these classes that the South would win its independence, and a desire to promote the lucrative business of building ships for the world in English shipyards. After a time, aided by the gradual triumph of the Northern armies, the English people became awakened to the dangers of their position in case their nation, owning nearly half the merchant marine of the world, should become involved in war. Such a war, for instance, as that which has prevailed in South Africa would have allowed such nations as the United States or Germany, under this precedent established by England, to cover the ocean with privateers carrying the flag of the Dutch Republic, to the utter destruction of the English merchant navy. Thereupon the English government stopped the further building of privateers; and then followed years of diplomacy, whereby England sought to render ineffective the precedent she had herself established, and the United States to recover damages for the work of the English-built privateers. These negotiations were completed during the presidency of General Grant, and largely through the work of his premier, Hamilton Fish. The history of the rupture between Charles Sumner and General Grant's administration, one factor in which was the recall of Mr. Motley (who, because he owed his appointment to Sumner, conceived his duty to be to report to Sumner rather than to the State Department), from his position as Embassador to England, is fully and most interestingly told by Mr. Adams.

Another article, entitled "An Undeveloped Function," embodies the suggestion that our various Historical Societies, from a broad standpoint, should endeavor to shed light by their discussions on political questions of national importance. In "A National Change of Heart" is indicated the reason of the friendship which of late has developed in England toward the United States.

The whole volume is most interesting and instructive; it is one of the comparatively few books of the year of permanent value. Mr. Adams has been not alone a man of letters, but a man of affairs,—has successfully managed great corporations, has travelled widely, and been on terms of intimacy with many of the most notable statesmen and diplomats of his period. From this training and experience few men now living could have so clearly discussed the subjects treated in the volume.

FRANKLIN H. HEAD.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

English poetry in the crucible of the scientist.

An attempt to consider scientifically the general phenomena of poetry and to suggest a new system of prosody is the avowed purpose of Prof. Mark H. Liddell's "Introduction to the Scientific Study of English Poetry" (Doubleday). In this book the theories presented are based upon the belief that language and literature offer a field for scientific treatment much like that of economics or ethics. Professor Liddell sets aside all definitions and "present notions" of poetry, and calls them "vague and bewildering," "literary and not scientific," based upon "the emotional susceptibility of the individual to respond to poetic phenomena, and not upon the absolute and catholic concepts of science." All such general notions of the nature of poetic phenomena the author considers quite valueless for the study of poetry; and after several pages devoted to the inadequacy of present definitions he arrives at a definition of poetry of his own making, which reads as follows: "Poetry is literature, usually of a high degree of Human Interest, which in addition to its Human Interest has in it an added Æsthetic Interest due to the arrangement of some easily recognizable and constantly present concomitant of thought-formulation into a form of æsthetic appeal for which an appreciative Æsthetic Sentiment has been gradually developed in the minds of those who habitually think by means of the language in which the poetry is written." By the aid of an algebraic formula, Professor Liddell is enabled to express this definition of poetry in the following concise form: x + H I + V F, — meaning "ideas formulated in terms of correlated sound-group-images" + Human Interest + Verse Form. Professor Liddell then proceeds to show the inadequacy of the present system of English prosody, and states that in his treatment of the subject of poetry from a strictly historical and inductive point of view he at the outset parts company with the usual treatises on English prosody. Historically, his book is decidedly disappointing, as there is practically no account given of the different kinds of poetry nor their stages of development; and the author's inductive point of view has led him into some strange inferences and generalizations, to which it would not be unjust to apply his own adjectives "vague and bewildering." His system of prosody involves much that is revolutionary and is destructive of well established rules, and, "failing scientific formulation and scientific terminology," he has invented a nomenclature and notation of his own which is too eccentric to be helpful. For "verse" he substitutes the words "thought-moment"; for "feet," "waves of impulse"; and he prefers to do away with the use of any terms used in classic prosody. We cannot see that Professor Liddell has added anything to the excellent work which has already been done in the study of English prosody. His methods and his style are for the most part unsatisfactory, and his theories may most

safely be regarded — to use the words of Professor Francis B. Gummere in his admirable "Handbook of Poetics" — as among "those sweeping changes of recent writers which are in so many cases merely destructive of old theory without offering solid basis for new rules."

Nature and origin of the solar system.

A reasonably full, accurate, and popular treatment of the nebular theory of the evolution of the solar system has long been a desideratum. Sir Robert Ball has at last supplied this in his latest volume entitled "The Earth's Beginning" (Appleton). Like "Star-land," by the same author, this volume had its origin in a series of lectures given to audiences of young people under the auspices of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. But, unlike the earlier volume, the present one will be best appreciated by adult readers. After a general statement of the nebular theory, and a description of some of the most notable nebulæ, with special reference to those of spiral form — since this has now been shown by photography to be the typical form — the author considers the sun. He shows that the heat of the orb of day is now maintained by the same process of contraction that has been going on for ages, and reasons backward to the primeval nebula in which the solar system originated. Next follows one of the most interesting portions of the book, in which our knowledge of the present state of the earth's interior is set forth admirably, with a discussion of seismic and volcanic phenomena. Several chapters are then devoted to the evidences for the truth of the nebular hypothesis derived from our planetary system. The book closes with a series of short appendices giving mathematical explanations of matters of interest in connection with the contraction of a nebula. Here and there the critical reader will detect a minor blemish; three of these we may mention. Near the bottom of page 36 the foci of certain ellipses are said to lie at the sun's centre; on page 55 Professor Barnard is given credit which properly belongs to Professor Bailey; on page 252 we read of "the area which each particle of the planet describes," which is clearly not the author's meaning. But minor inaccuracies like these detract little from the solid merit of the book. It is excellently printed on heavy paper, and is embellished with four colored plates and sixty-three other illustrations, most of which are taken from celestial photographs.

Makers of Modern Europe.

The eleventh volume of "The World's Epoch-Makers" (Scribner) is devoted to "The Medici and the Italian Renaissance," and is written by the editor of the series, Mr. Oliphant Smeaton, M.A. The purpose of the volume is to trace the continuity of aim which moved the various members of the great house of Medici, and show by what steps and in what forms they contributed to that wonderful period known as the Italian Renaissance, from which dates all modern civilization. In a broad and general sense, the Renaissance has not ended yet; but in its more limited and customary application it stands for the hundred years between the death of Giovanni de' Medici — the founder of the greatness of the family (1428) — and the Sack of Rome (1527) under the Medicean Pope, Clement VII. It was a century of romance and fascination, a mingled web of good and ill; and throughout all its central figures are seen to be the successive representatives of this Florentine family of merchant princes — Giovanni, Cosimo his son, Lorenzo his great-grandson, and Giovanni, afterwards Pope Leo X., his great-great-grandson. Had these failed to take the deep and absorbing interest they did in the movement, it would not have accomplished that mission of the intellectual regeneration of Europe which it was destined to achieve; in all probability it would have died down into a mere philological "insect-study" of the Greek and Latin classics, without effecting that stimulation of life, thought, and enterprise of which one of the results was the discovery of the "New World." Recent investigations and a more critical analysis of their policy have tempered on the one hand the indiscriminate eulogies of Roscoe, and on the other hand have disproved many of the charges brought against them by Sismondi and Gino Capponi. Mr. Smeaton admits that their crimes were manifold; that the character of even the best of them was all too frequently stained with the vices of their age to a degree reprobated even in that age when moral squeamishness was not general. But notwithstanding all, he feels that their services to the Renaissance cover their multitude of sins. Certainly it is cause for gratitude that at last we have a small book which describes minutely and consecutively the precise nature of these services, and eliminates from the tangled web of Florentine politics and Florentine history such clear character-studies of these makers of the modern time.

The sacred beetle of Egypt.

Every traveller in Egypt, every reader of Egyptian history, and every antiquarian, has seen a scarabæus. Several works have been published which exhibit a large number of these curious old bugs. Mr. John Ward, who published "Pyramids and Progress" a couple of years ago, has now put out "The Sacred Beetle, a Popular Treatise on Egyptian Scarabs in Art and History" (Scribner). It answers the question "What is a scarab?" in a simple and popular manner. We find in the back of the book sixteen full-page collotype plates of scarabs, not from pen-and-ink drawings as found in earlier works, but from elegant well-reproduced photographs, giving the exact form and face of the originals, which belong to periods stretching from the third down to the twenty-fifth dynasty. Each scarab is described, and if it contains an inscription this is given in hieroglyphics and translation. Occasionally the author gives a bit of personal experi-

ence, — for he has travelled much in Egypt, — connected with the finding of a certain scarab. Some of his finest royal scarabs are those belonging to the reign of Thothemes III., Egypt's "Alexander the Great." Besides the plates of scarabs, the book contains ninety-two illustrations in the text, most of them of value in understanding the scarabs under survey on the same or the accompanying page. Such popular works are immensely helpful in presenting an otherwise technical subject.

A sumptuous art-volume about Siena.

The literary portion of Mr. Gilbert Hastings's volume on "Siena, Its Architecture and Art" (De La More Press, London) is in length not more than an average magazine article, — scarcely enough to necessitate the index with which it is nevertheless provided. It is a nearly square quarto of 55 pages, and is, as it is undoubtedly intended to be, a book to delight the eyes of the bibliophile, — made so by the choice of paper, type, and artistic printing, by photogravures and full-page illustrations in half-tone. The plain board cover is evidently intended to be replaced by the possessor with binding according to his individual taste. As a souvenir of a visit to Siena it is also a delight. That the reader may gain information which the letter-press fails to give, and be aided to a greater appreciation of the architectural and art history of this much-neglected Italian city, the book is furnished with a brief bibliography; but the greater number of titles given therein are of papers which have appeared in the periodical press; and it would seem that a person desirous of learning much of Siena would be doomed to disappointment even after having consulted all that is therein indicated.

Two heroic English kings.

Two heroic English kings, Edward I. and Henry V., are the subjects of recent additions to the "Heroes of the Nations" series (Putnam). Both volumes are written by trained historians and are authoritative accounts in untechnical form of the periods of history covered. The volume on Edward, by Mr. Edward Jenks, opens with a sketch of the Middle Ages in Europe and the Emergence of Modern Europe, and then treats of Edward as soldier, statesman, and lawgiver. It is a book of value for reference or for mature readers, but it will hardly attract one who is not making a serious study of the history of the period. The life of Henry V. has more of general interest, owing to the attractive personality of the king, to his brilliant and startling successes over a greater and stronger nation, and to the gloom of preceding and following reigns. Henry was a real hero, and the stripping process to which modern writers are subjecting the heroes of old robs him of nothing but some traditional stories of a later date that were little to his credit. This book also, written by Mr. Charles L. Kingsford, is one of permanent value as well as interest.

Art volumes on Tuscan sculpture, and Van Dyck.

The latest volumes of the "Riverside Art Series" (Houghton) are on "Tuscan Sculpture" and "Van Dyck." Their general features are similar to those of their predecessors, — critical Introduction, Books of Reference, Historical Directory, and Biographical Data, followed by fifteen pictures with descriptive text of two or three pages for each. As a representative selection, the choice in "Tuscan Sculpture" is open to criticism. Donatello is represented by five examples, Luca and Andrea della Robbia by three each, and Jacopo della Quercia by one. This is well; but why should the comparatively minor artist Mino da Fiesole have two examples, Nanni di Banco and Rosellino each one, while Ghiberti, the most epoch-making name of the period, is not even mentioned? Ghiberti's bronze doors for the Florence Baptistery are the most remarkable works of sculpture finished during the earlier Renaissance; and a book, however elementary, which ignores them must be regarded as inadequate. — In the volume on Van Dyck the selection is good and representative, being divided about equally between portraits and subject-pieces. This artist's merits and limitations are clearly pointed out, and the reasons given why, although not ranking among the world's foremost masters, Van Dyck is nevertheless a notable and indeed a beloved figure in art history.

The greatest son of Dartmouth.

The elaborate celebration by Dartmouth College of the centennial anniversary of the graduation of the greatest of her sons was marked by the excellent oration of Congressman McCall on the life and work of Daniel Webster, which has now appeared in a tasteful little volume published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. There is none of the gorgeous rhetoric that characterized Rufus Choate's splendid eulogy delivered from the same platform fifty years ago; but the oration contains a fine summary of the important facts in Webster's life, and expresses what must be in the main the judgment of history upon him as lawyer, orator, and statesman. In all, he is ranked as among the greatest; while in oratory he is put at the head of all who have used the English language, unless Burke may be allowed to stand beside him. The oration was in every way worthy of the great occasion that called it forth, and will be of permanent value for both its form and its content.

BRIEFER MENTION.

When Professor J. L. Laughlin's "Elements of Political Economy" was first published fifteen years ago, it was the best text then obtainable for high school use. Since then, numerous excellent texts have appeared, and it has been subjected to keen competition. In its unrevised condition, it had fallen behind in the race for favor, and was getting less representative of present day economic theory with every year. Now that a new revised edition has been put forth by the

American Book Co., it becomes again probably the best text for its purposes to be had. Yet the revision has not been as thoroughgoing as we could have wished. Some of the charts have not been extended to date; the old erroneous illustration of the law of diminishing returns is repeated; the disingenuous denial of "double profits" to note-issuing national banks is restated, and the absurdly childish exercises have not been detected. But the book is so sound and lucid in its fundamentals that we must give it high praise, in spite of these and other defects.

Is it true, as is suggested by Miss Augusta N. Campbell Davidson in her "Translations from Lucian" (Longmans), that the clear-visioned philosopher of Samosata "has fallen at the present day almost wholly out of general reading"? We are not altogether sure of this, although, as a matter of course, Lucian does not command the audience of Homer and Virgil, or even of Cicero and Plato. At any rate, we may welcome and commend to the attention of those who know not this most delightful writer the volume that Miss Davidson has made. She gives us seven selections in all, including "The Sale of the Philosophers," "Hermotimus," "Teus the Tragedian," and the study of the false prophet Alexander of Abonotichus. The translation reads well and is the work of a painstaking student.

NOTES.

"Europe," by Mr. Frank G. Carpenter, is a new volume of "Carpenter's Geographical Readers," published by the American Book Co.

"A Guide to the Best Historical Novels and Tales," classified by centuries, and compiled by Mr. Jonathan Nield, has just been published by the Messrs. Putnam.

The origin of the old French epic called the "Covenant Vivien" is the subject of a monograph by Mr. Raymond Weeks, published in "The University of Missouri Studies."

A new edition, with an appendix, of Mr. Frederic Rowland Marvin's compilation of "Last Words of Distinguished Men and Women" is published by the Fleming H. Revell Co.

Mr. William Garrott Brown's semi-philosophical and eminently readable "Atlantic Monthly" article on "Golf," has been made into a neat booklet by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

"The King in Yellow" includes some of the best short stories that Mr. R. W. Chambers has ever written, and we note with pleasure the reappearance of the volume, with illustrations, from the press of the Messrs. Harper.

The first volume of Mr. C. Oman's "History of the Peninsular War," which will shortly be issued from the Oxford University Press, deals with the events from the treaty of Fontainebleau to the battle of Corunna — 1807–1809.

Mr. Lawrence J. Burpee has in preparation, for the Royal Society of Canada, a bibliography of Canadian publications issued during the year 1901. He will be very grateful for any information as to books, pamphlets, magazine articles, or papers in society transactions, published during 1901, by Canadians; and especially would like to be furnished with data as to where books and pamphlets were published, the name of publisher, number of pages, and size, and in the case of articles, the month, and page where article begins. Mr. Burpee's address is 351 Stewart Street, Ottawa, Canada.

A revised Allen and Greenough's Cicero (Select Orations and Letters), prepared by Messrs. J. B. Greenough and G. L. Kittredge, has just been published by Messrs. Ginn & Co., with notes, illustrations, and a special vocabulary.

A school reading-book of "Sketches of Great Painters for Young People," by Miss Colonna Murray Dallin, is published by Messrs. Silver, Burdett, & Co. There are twenty-one subjects, each with one or more illustrations indifferently reproduced.

"The Past and Present of Japanese Commerce," by Dr. Yetaro Kinosita, and "The Eastern Question: A Study in Diplomacy," by Dr. Stephen Pierce Hayden Duggan, are two Columbia University "Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law" just sent us by the Columbia University Press.

Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. publish "The Principles of Logic," by Dr. Herbert Austin Aikins. The author's aim has been to treat deduction, as well as induction, from the objective standpoint, and even omits the traditional rules of the syllogism. A very valuable set of exercises is appended to this text.

"The Story of the Art of Music," by Mr. Frederick J. Crowest, is published by the Messrs. Appleton in their "Library of Useful Stories." Opening the little book at random, we come upon the statement that "Tschaikowsky still lives." This is probably not typical of the general accuracy of the book, but it is a quite unpardonable blunder.

The "Modern Astronomy" of Mr. Herbert H. Turner is published in a "second impression" by Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co. It is not a text-book, but rather a readable combination of description with narration which sets forth the progress made in astronomy during the last quarter-century, largely through the application to the science of dry plate photography.

Messrs. Woodward & Lothrop, Washington, are the publishers of Mrs. L. W. Maynard's "Birds of Washington and Vicinity," which now appears in a revised edition, with an introduction by Miss Florence Merriam Bailey. The same publishers send us the second edition of "Esther Burr's Journal," edited by Mr. Jeremiah Eames Rankin, and printed in black letter, with illustrations.

Miss Mary E. Burt, who has done so much to help children to an understanding of good literature, has just edited, with the aid of Miss Lucy Cable, an abridgment of "Don Quixote de La Mancha," taken from the translations of Duffield and Shelton. The book is published by the Messrs. Scribner in their "Series of School Reading," and is the eighth volume of that series for which Miss Burt is reponsible.

"True Tales of Birds and Beasts," edited by President David Starr Jordan, is published by the Messrs. Heath in their series of "Home and School Classics." The book consists, as the editor says, of "animal stories which are true and which are also good for children to read." Among the authors are Thoreau, Irving, Mr. Joaquin Miller, and President Jordan himself, who reprints "The Story of a Salmon" from his collection of "Science Sketches."

List of New Books.

[*The following list, containing 53 titles, includes books received by* The Dial *since its last issue.*]

BIOGRAPHY.

Life and Letters of Thomas Cromwell. By Roger Bigelow Merriman, A.M., B.Litt. In 2 vols., 8vo. Oxford University Press. $4.50 *net.*

Charles Eliot: Landscape Architect. Illus. in photogravure, etc., large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 770. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. $3.50 *net.*

HISTORY.

A History of the Peninsular War. By Charles Oman, M.A. Vol. I., 1807-1809, From the Treaty of Fontainebleau to the Battle of Corunna. Illus., 8vo, gilt top, pp. 656. Oxford University Press. $3.50 *net.*

NEW EDITIONS OF STANDARD LITERATURE.

Sheridan's Plays. Now Printed as He Wrote Them; and His Mother's Unpublished Comedy: A Journey to Bath. Edited by W. Fraser Rae. With an Introduction by Sheridan's Great-grandson, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. 8vo, uncut, pp. 318. London: David Nutt.

POETRY AND VERSE.

Some of the Rhymes of Ironquill. (A Book of Moods). Eleventh edition; 12mo, gilt top, pp. 365. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Songs of the Press, and Other Adventures in Verse. By Bailey Millard. 12mo, uncut, pp. 113. San Francisco: Elder & Shepard.

FICTION.

Belshazzar: A Tale of the Fall of Babylon. By William Stearns Davis. Illus., 12mo, pp. 427. Doubleday, Page & Co. $1.50.

Told by the Death's Head: A Romantic Tale. By Maurus Jokái; translated by S. E. Boggs. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, pp. 348. Saalfield Pub'g Co. $1.50.

An English Girl in Paris. 12mo, gilt top, pp. 331. John Lane. $1.50.

Rataplan, A Rogue Elephant, and other Stories. By Ellen Velvin. Illus. in color, 12mo, pp. 328. Henry Altemus Co. $1.25.

Mrs. Tree. By Laura E. Richards. Illus., 16mo, gilt top, pp. 282. Dana Estes & Co. 75 cts.

The Credit of the County. By W. E. Norris. 12mo, pp. 323. "Appletons' Town and Country Library." D. Appleton & Co. Paper, 50 cts.

The Blue Diamond. By Roswell W. Keene. 12mo, pp. 477. Abbey Press. $1.50.

TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION.

The Lake Counties. By W. G. Collingwood. Illus., 16mo, pp. 392. "Dent's County Guides." E. P. Dutton & Co. $1.50 *net.*

Three Years on the Blockade: A Naval Experience. By I. E. Vail. 12mo, pp. 171. Abbey Press. $1.25.

Cruising in the West Indies. By Anson Phelps Stokes. With map, 12mo, pp. 126. Dodd, Mead & Co.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

Sohrab and Rustem: The Epic Theme of a Combat between Father and Son. By Murray Anthony Potter, M.A. 12mo, uncut, pp. 234. London: David Nutt.

Character Building. Being Addresses Delivered on Sunday Evenings to the Students of Tuskegee Institute. By Booker T. Washington. With frontispiece, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 291. Doubleday, Page & Co. $1.50 *net.*

The Last Words of Distinguished Men and Women. Collected from Various Sources by Frederic Rowland Marvin. New edition; 12mo, pp. 354. Fleming H. Revell Co. $1.50 *net.*

Folk-Tales of Napoleon. Trans. with Introduction by George Kennan. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 107. New York: The Outlook Co. $1. *net.*

Esther Burr's Journal. Edited by Jeremiah Eames Rankin. Second edition; illus., 16mo, pp. 100. Washington: Woodward & Lothrop. Paper.

RELIGION.

A Dictionary of the Bible, Dealing with its Language, Literature, and Contents, including the Biblical Theology. Edited by James Hastings, M.A., D.D. Vol. IV., Pleroma-Zuzim. Illus., 4to, pp. 994. Charles Scribner's Sons. $6. (Sold only by subscription.)

The Religion of the Teutons. By P. D. Chantepie de la Saussaye. Trans. from the Dutch by Bert J. Vos. 8vo, pp. 504. "Handbooks on the History of Religions." Ginn & Co. $2.50.

NATURE AND SCIENCE.

The Common Spiders of the United States. By James H. Emerton. Illus., 12mo, pp. 225. Ginn & Co. $1.50 *net.*

In a Tuscan Garden. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, pp. 419. John Lane. $1.50 *net.*

Birds of Washington and Vicinity. By Mrs. L. W. Maynard, with Introduction by Florence Merriam Bailey. Revised edition; 12mo, pp. 210. Washington: Woodward & Lothrop. $1. *net.*

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS.

The Eastern Question: A Study in Diplomacy. By Stephen P. H. Duggan, Ph.D. 8vo, uncut, pp. 152. "Studies in History, etc." New York: Columbia Univ. Press. Paper.

The Past and Present of Japanese Commerce. By Yetaro Kinosita, Ph.D. 8vo, uncut, pp. 164. "Studies in History, etc." New York: Columbia Univ. Press. Paper.

How to Treat the Trusts and How to Win in 1904. By John Haggerty. 16mo, pp. 81. Abbey Press. 25 cts.

PHILOSOPHY.

A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities. By Pierre Simon, Marquis de Laplace. Trans. from the sixth French edition by Frederick W. Truscott and Frederick L. Emory. 12mo, pp. 196. John Wiley & Sons. $2.

BOOKS FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Manual of Astronomy: A Text-Book. By Charles A. Young, Ph.D. Illus., 8vo, pp. 611. Ginn & Co. $2.45.

A College Algebra. By G. A. Wentworth. Revised edition; 12mo, pp. 530. Ginn & Co. $1.65.

Introduction to Physical Science. By Alfred Payson Gage, Ph.D. Revised edition; illus. in color, etc., 12mo, pp. 359. Ginn & Co. $1.10.

Athalie: Tragédie Tirée de L'Ecriture Sante. Par Jean Racine; edited by F. C. de Sumichrast. 16mo, pp. 198. "Macmillan's French Classics." Macmillan Co. 60 cts.

Under Sunny Skies. Illus., 16mo, pp. 138. "Youth's Companion Series." Ginn & Co. 25 cts.

Mediæval and Modern History. Part I., The Middle Ages. By Philip Van Ness Myers. 12mo, pp. 454. Ginn & Co. $1.20.

The Principles of Logic. By Herbert Austin Aikins, Ph.D. 12mo, pp. 489. Henry Holt & Co. $1.50 *net.*

A Spanish Grammar. With Exercises. By M. Montrose Ramsey. 12mo, pp. 610. Henry Holt & Co. $1.50 *net.*

Elementary Physical Geography. By William Morris Davis. Illus., 12mo, pp. 401. Ginn & Co. $1.40.

A History of English Literature. By William Vaughn Moody and Robert Morss Lovett. 12mo, pp. 433. Charles Scribner's Sons. $1.25 *net.*

Essentials of Chemistry. For Secondary Schools. By John C. Hessler, Ph.D., and Albert L. Smith, Ph.D. Illus., 12mo, pp. 540. Benj. H. Sanborn & Co. $1.20.

Training for Citizenship: An Elementary Treatise on the Rights and Duties of Citizens. By Joseph Warren Smith, A.M. 12mo, pp. 345. Lothrop Publishing Co. 90 cts. *net.*

The Government: What It Is, What It Does. By Salter Storrs Clark. 12mo, pp. 304. American Book Co. 75 cts.

Our Country's Story: An Elementary History of the United States. By Eva March Tappan, Ph.D. Illus., 8vo, pp. 267. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 65 cts. *net.*

Elements of Physics: Experimental and Descriptive. By Amos T. Fisher, B.S., assisted by Melvin J. Patterson, B.S. 12mo, pp. 184. D. C. Heath & Co. 60 cts.

Elementary Physiology and Hygiene. By Buel P. Colton, A.M. Illus., 12mo, pp. 317. D. C. Heath & Co. 60 cts.

Jules Verne's Vingt Mille Lieues sous les Mers. Abridged and edited by C. Fontaine, B.L. 18mo, pp. 201. D. C. Heath & Co. 40 cts.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Persian Children of the Royal Family: The Narrative of an English Tutor at the Court of H. I. H. Zillu's-Sultán, G.C.S.I. By Wilfrid Sparroy. Illus., large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 351. John Lane. $3.50 *net.*

Lectures on the Study of Language. By Hanns Oertel. 4to, pp. 346. Charles Scribner's Sons. $3. *net.*

Rossetti: A Critical Essay on his Art. By Ford Madox Hueffer. Illus., 24mo, gilt top, pp. 192. "Popular Library of Art." E. P. Dutton & Co. 75 cts. *net.*

Golf. By William Garrott Brown. 12mo, pp. 64. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 50 cts. *net.*

Careless Jane, and Other Tales. By Katharine Pyle. Illus., 12mo, pp. 110. E. P. Dutton & Co. 75 cts. *net.*

The Story of the Art of Music. By Frederick J. Crowest. Illus., 16mo, pp. 190. D. Appleton & Co. 35 cts.

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